

## CLAIMS

1. A vehicle security apparatus for preventing unauthorized use of a vehicle, said apparatus comprising:
  - an antenna configured to communicate with at least one remote device;
  - detection circuitry configured to detect at least one of damage to and removal of said antenna;
  - an operator authentication device configured to determine whether a operator has authorization to operate the vehicle, and
  - a shutdown device configured to at least partially disable the vehicle if:
    - said detection circuitry detects the at least one of damage to and removal of said antenna; and
    - said operator authentication device determines that the operator does not have authorization to operate the vehicle.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operator authentication device is configured to perform said determination of whether a operator has authorization to operate the vehicle only if said detection circuitry detects the at least one of damage to and removal of said antenna.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one remote device includes at least one of a set of global positioning devices and a vehicle management apparatus.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said antenna is a DC short, said detection circuitry including a voltage detector coupled to said antenna.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said antenna is a DC open, said detection circuitry being configured to sense a level of output power associated with said antenna.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said antenna is a DC open, said detection circuitry being configured to sense a level of input power associated with said antenna.

7. A method of preventing unauthorized use of a vehicle, said method comprising:  
providing the vehicle with a wireless communication link;  
detecting whether said wireless communication link has been at least one of damaged and removed; and  
at least partially disabling the vehicle if it is detected that said wireless communication link has been at least one of damaged and removed.

8. The method of claim 7, comprising the further step of determining whether an operator has authorization to operate the vehicle, said at least partially disabling step occurring only if it is determined that the operator does not have authorization to operate the vehicle.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of determining whether an operator has authorization to operate the vehicle occurs only if it is detected that said wireless communication link has been at least one of damaged and removed.

10. The method of claim 7, comprising the further step of using said wireless communication link to communicate with at least one remote device including at least one of a set of global positioning devices and a vehicle management apparatus.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein said wireless communication link includes a DC shorted antenna, said detecting step including sensing a voltage associated with said antenna.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said wireless communication link includes a DC open antenna, said detecting step including sensing a level of output power associated with said antenna.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein said wireless communication link includes a DC open antenna, said detecting step including sensing a level of input power associated with said antenna.

14. A vehicle security apparatus for preventing unauthorized use of a vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

a wireless communication link;

detection circuitry configured to detect at least one of damage to and removal of said wireless communication link; and

a shutdown device configured to at least partially disable the vehicle if said detection circuitry detects the at least one of damage to and removal of said wireless communication link.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising an operator authentication device in communication with said shutdown device and configured to determine whether an operator has authorization to operate the vehicle, said shutdown device being configured to at least partially disable the vehicle only if said operator authentication device determines that the operator does not have authorization to operate the vehicle.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said operator authentication device is configured to perform said determination of whether an operator has authorization to operate the vehicle only if said detection circuitry detects the at least one of damage to and removal of said wireless communication link.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said wireless communication link is configured to communicate with at least one remote device including at least one of a set of global positioning devices and a vehicle management apparatus.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said wireless communication link includes an antenna.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said antenna is a DC short, said detection circuitry including a voltage detector coupled to said antenna.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said antenna is a DC open, said detection circuitry being configured to sense a level of output power associated with said antenna.

21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said antenna is a DC open, said detection circuitry being configured to sense a level of input power associated with said antenna.